

It's Miss, Miss, Miss, As The Old Year Yawns Out

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Corinthian Casuals 0.

BY "CHILTERN"

WYCOMBE WANDERERS bowed out of 1966 under a big black cloud. When they took to the field on Saturday they were without a win since that at Bromley on December 3, and the whole of the first team had become involved in a club dispute between manager Barry Darvill and the match committee.

So it is not really surprising that this last Isthmian League game of 1966 was just one big yawn. It was one of those games where nobody is sorry to hear the final whistle.

Wanderers took both points with a Bates penalty 13 minutes from the end. The rest of the forwards shot like cross-eyed snipers in a phoney war.

And Paul Bates himself was not blameless in this respect. As the first-half droned to an end he only had to nod a Merrick centre into the gaping goal, but he headed it over. At least he had chance to atone for his lapse with the penalty which he took immaculately.

Wanderers forwards could always find a way through the Casuals defence — but their finishing was like that of the rubber-legged Jim Peters trying in vain to cross the finishing line after his Empire marathon.

Horseman and Worley were both guilty of first-half misses which they would normally have turned smartly into goals.

Peter Eyres appeared again in place of Peter Roystone, and was obviously only too aware of his position. He knew he had to please everyone — not an enviable task, on the badly cutting, slippery pitch. Although he made several understandable mistakes young Peter obviously has a lot of talent, and could well go far if he can keep Roystone out of the side.

Casuals played some good football, but their finishing too was poor. The speedy Phillips led the attack in grand style, and wingers Hunt and Pinkney swopped flanks intelligently.

The huge Chris Joy — son of Bernard — once again played a strong game, but it was his blatant handling offence that gave Bates

his penalty in the 77th minute, and hence Wycombe the points.

Right back John Beck, who suffered some barracking from spectators at the bottom end, made several timely clearances off the goal line, and on one occasion whipped the ball off Shalet's foot as he was about to shoot from close in.

The Wycombe half-back line of Baker, Rundle and Gale had a better afternoon and set up many attacks which the forwards were unable to cash.

So it was the afternoon of the big miss. I believe it would have been a very different story had a brilliantly executed overhead scissors kick by Keith Samuels not been hastily fumbled off the line by James in the third minute.

Wycombe: Maskell; Beck, Eyres; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels. Bates, Horseman, Merrick.